GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3897
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2007
DECLINE IN FOODGRAIN PRODUCTION
Sarma Dr. Arun Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of foodgrains has declined in North East Region considerably;

(b) if so, the average rate of production recorded during each of the last three years, grain-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has identified the reasons for the downward trend in the production rate;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government to enhance the production of foodgrains; and

(e) the extent of support price being provided item-wise and quantity of foodgrain procured by the Government during last three years in the region?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Table below shows the changes in production of foodgrains in the States of North East Region during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06:

State	Production (`000 Tonnes)		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Arunachal Pradesh	244.1	226.9	240.9
Assam	4035.0	3618.2	3677.8
Manipur	391.9	447.8	398.5
Meghalaya	233.8	225.2	183.1
Mizoram	139.4	124.6	129.8
Nagaland	409.8	403.5	424.8
Tripura	529.1	556.4	563.6

(b): The State-wise and grain-wise rate (yield) of production during the years 2003-04 to 2005-06 is given in the Annexure.

(c) & (d): Deficient rainfall, unfriendly weather, lack of irrigation facilities, shifting cultivation, soil erosion, floods and lack of hybrid seeds have been responsible for the downward trend in the production. In order to increase the production of cereals in the country, including North East Region, Centrally Sponsored Schemes `Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice), Wheat Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Wheat) and Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals)` are in place since October 2000. Under the scheme, assistances are provided for propagation of improved/hybrid production technology, integrated pest management, transfer of technology, farm implements, installation of sprinkler irrigation system, varietal replacement and production of certified seeds.

For pulses, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme `Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize` (ISOPOM) is under implementation since 01.04.2004. Under this scheme, assistance is provided for production of breeder/ foundation/ certified seeds, crash programme for quality seed production, distribution of certified seed, and Minikits, infrastructure development and integrated Pest Management.

(e): In the foodgrains, only Rice has been procured during 2003-04 to 2005-06 in Assam and Nagaland among the States of the Region. Procurement of Rice of 17 thousand tonnes in 2003-04, less than 500 tonnes in 2004-05 and 1 thousand tonne in 2005-06 was done in Assam. In Nagaland 11 thousand tonnes of rice was procured in 2004-05. Table below shows the item-wise Minimum Support Price (MSP) announced by the Government for the marketing season 2006-07:

	(Rs. per Quintal)		
Crop	MSP (2006-07)	Crop	MSP (2006-07)

Paddy Common	580#	Ragi	540
Paddy Grade `A`	610#	Barley	565
Wheat	750$	Tur	1410
Jowar Hybrid	540	Gram	1445
Jowar Maldandi	555	Moong	1520
Bajra	540	Urad	1520
Maize	540	Masur (lentil)	1545

An additional bonus of Rs. 40 per quintal is payable on procurement between 01.10.2006 to 31.03.2007.
$An additional incentive bonus of Rs. 100 per quintal is payable on wheat.